

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Viking Stavangar 1

TWO first half goals by veteran striker Tony Horseman gave Wycombe Wanderers an entertaining victory over Norwegian tourists Viking Stavangar at Loakes Park last night (Monday) writes Stuart Earp.

This friendly, which was only arranged last Friday, produced some promising football in the first half but the pitch proved the eventual winner and dictated events after half time. In the end, the centre of Loakes Park looked like a quagmire and will take some time to recover.

Wanderers welcomed back Dave Bullock for his first competitive game for three weeks, following a car accident. Dave played the first half at left back. Bullock, Paul Griffiths and Dylan Evans were only three squad members in the side and Wycombe's team looked strong on paper. They had to be too, because Stavangar had won the Norwegian League First Division for the last three years and had three internationals in their side. They are over here for a short tour and meet Q.P.R. tomorrow.

It was a shame the conditions spoilt what could have been a skilled and high scoring encounter. The Norwegians kept two men pinned to the touchline and sprayed some lovely 30 yard passes to the flanks until they became bogged down in the morass.

International goalkeeper Erik Johannesen just managed to push a Howard Kennedy piledriver onto his crossbar in the sixth minute but soon afterwards, the swift moving Viking forwards carved out their goal. Otto Sundgodt burst through from full back beating Griffiths. His cross flew past Mead and centre forward Rolf Bjornsen pounced at the near post to deflect the ball past John Maskell.

Then two goals in two minutes put Wycombe well in command. Both were scored by Horseman, the first after 23 minutes. From a corner, Kennedy's kick was blocked. Terry Reardon returned the ball for Kennedy to centre again and as the defence failed to clear, Horseman took his chance by sending a well placed left foot shot past the goalkeeper.

From the next serious attack, Wanderers went two up. This was a perfect move and one that must have been rehearsed many times. Steve Perrin played a 1-2 with Horseman which left the latter completely clear of the defence. Drawing Johannesen, 'Bodger' took the ball wide and planted home the second goal.

With that lead, Wanderers pressed forward well until half time with Reardon and Perrin bringing great saves from the 'keeper. In the second half, however, play deteriorated badly with both sides trying to play the short ball game and floundering in the mud.

Dave Alexander replaced Bullock at half time and brought new width to the attack although he received the ball all too rarely in the closing stages, when Wycombe attacked strongly. Stavangar had a goal disallowed for offside in the 53rd minute but in general, goalkeeper Maskell was rarely troubled.

They used the match to give nearly all their players a runout and the man who really caught the eye was goalkeeper Johannesen. Twice he halted Evans with brilliant saves the first from a header and the second occasion turning a full blooded shot around the post.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Griffiths, K. Mead, A. Phillips (sub. G. Mackenzie 77 mins), D. Bullock (sub. D. Alexander 45 mins), H. Kennedy, T. Reardon, M. Hollifield, A. Horseman, S. Perrin, D. Evans.

VIKING: E. Johannesen, A. Ekeland (sub H. Andersen 61 mins), O. Sungodt, R. Goa, S. Slinning, I. Valen, H. Paulsen (sub T. Svendsen 73 mins), G. Berland (sub A. Drivfladt 78 mins), R. Bjornsen, G. Vigeddal, A. Knutsen.